

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 /106 W

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P R 121218Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8922

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 14981

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, IN

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL AMERICAN DRILL SHIP FOR BOMBAY HIGH

REF: NEW DELHI 12667

1. THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (ONGC) HAS RECENTLY ISSUED A LETTER-OF-INTENT TO ATWOOD OCEANICS (HOUSTON) TO PROVIDE- DRILL SHIP "GETTYSBURG" TO THE GOI ON A ONE YEAR CHARTER BASIS WITH AN OPTION TO CANCEL GIVEN A 120 DAYS NOTICE. A CONTRACT TO THIS EFFECT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED MOMENTARILY. THIS WILL BE ATWOOD'S SECOND DRILLING RIG TO BE DEPLOYED IN THE BOMBAY HIGH AREA.

2. THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR A DAILY RATE OF ABOUT \$13,000 WITH ZERO DOWNTIME RATE DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS. AS AN ADDED INCENTIVE, ATWOOD OCEANICS HAS REDUCED ITS DAILY RATE ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"SHENANDOAH", A JACK-UP TYPE DRILLING RIG CHARTERED TO ONGC

IN NOVEMBER 1975, FROM \$25,000 TO \$21,000 SUBJECT TO THE ONGC RETAINING THE "GETTYSBURG" FOR 12 MONTHS. FOR PERIODS LESS THAN ONE YEAR, "SHENANDOAH'S" DAILY RATE WILL INCREASE. MOBILIZATION CHARGES HAVE ALSO BEEN LIMITED TO \$100,000, BUT SUBJECT TO A ONE YEAR CONTRACT AS WELL. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE CONTRACT ON THE "GETTYSBURG" BE TERMINATED IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR, ONGC WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEMOBILIZATION CHARGES OF \$450,000.

3. THE "GETTYSBURG" IS NOW ANCHORED IN SINGAPORE, BUT IS EXPECTED TO BE ON SITE BY OCTOBER 30. THE DRILL SHIP, A NON-SELF PROPELLED RIG, HAS THE CAPACITY TO DRILL UP TO DEPTHS OF 30,000 FEET OPERATING IN A MAXIMUM OF 600 FEET OF WATER. IT WILL BE USED PRIMARILY FOR EXPLORATORY WORK IN AND AROUND THE BOMBAY HIGH AREA. REPORTEDLY, ONE OF ITS FIRST TASKS WILL BE TO DRILL A RELIEF WELL FOR BS #2 (BASSEIN SOUTH) STRUCTURE IN AN EFFORT TO RECOVER A BOP ON THIS WELL WHICH WAS BENT AS THE "DALMOHOY" WAS TORN FROM ITS MOORINGS DURING A CYCLONIC CONDITION IN JUNE.
SAXBE

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